



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 03 April 2006

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

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Daily Highlights

- The Associated Press reports experts see danger in rising oil prices heading toward \$70 a barrel, with serious financial consequences possible for consumers and businesses. (See item [2](#))
- Reuters reports safety investigators issued urgent recommendations Thursday, March 30, for correcting problems that have caused electrical fires aboard Bombardier CRJ-200s, one of the most widely used regional jets in the U.S. commercial fleet. (See item [11](#))
- The New York Times reports health officials are trying to find the cause of a skyrocketing number of mumps cases in Iowa, the nation's largest outbreak of the infection in 17 years. (See item [24](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *March 31, Associated Press* — **Nuclear reactor shut down in Florida.** One of two reactors at the Turkey Point nuclear plant was shut down Friday, March 31 after damaged equipment was discovered during a routine inspection, officials said. Florida Power & Light and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) did not elaborate on the extent damaged. The reactor had been

shut down for a routine refueling, utility spokesperson Rachel Scott said. The damage was discovered late Thursday, March 30 during tests and inspection that had to be performed before bringing the reactor back online, Scott said. An NRC inspection team is investigating. Florida City is about 30 miles southwest of Miami.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/nation/3762888.html>

2. *March 31, Associated Press* — **Experts see danger in rising oil prices.** Oil prices appear headed back toward \$70 a barrel, a level not seen since Hurricane Katrina and sporadic shortages sent gasoline at the pump above \$3 a gallon. Analysts warn that consumers and businesses could be just one major supply disruption away from more serious financial consequences. Sherry Cooper of BMO Nesbitt Burns said the ramifications of \$70 oil and \$3-a-gallon gasoline would be "more mild" the second time around "because we're getting kind of used to it." Nomura Securities chief economist David Resler fears a more subtle fuel-related angst settling in among consumers. A hypothetical supply disruption that jolts oil prices to \$80 or higher and keeps them there for an extended period — say, three months — could result in "a substantial falloff in discretionary spending" that snowballs into a serious slowdown. Top threats for the oil market is the standoff between the United Nations and Iran over Tehran's nuclear energy ambitions; concern about supplies from Iraq, Russia, and Venezuela; unrest in Nigeria that has taken more than 500,000 barrels per day of oil off the market; and more than 300,000 barrels per day of Gulf of Mexico output that remains shut-in because of last fall's hurricanes.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/03/31/AR2006033101153.html?sub=AR>

3. *March 31, Detroit Free Press* — **Concrete shield falls in nuclear plant mishap.** A 35-ton concrete shield fell 15 feet onto the floor of D.C. Cook Nuclear Power Plant in west Michigan after the rigging on a crane failed earlier this week. Nuclear Regulatory Commission spokesperson Jan Strasma said the mishap occurred as workers were removing the last of three shields, which protect the entrance to the core of the Cook unit No. 2 — one of two Cook plant reactors near Bridgman, on Lake Michigan's shore. The shields were being removed Monday, March 27 in preparation of routine removal of old nuclear fuel rods from the core. Strasma said there was never any danger to the public or plant workers.

Source: <http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060331/NEWS06/603310331/1008>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

4. *April 03, U.S. Department of Defense* — **New threats demand new approach to deterrence, defense.** The old concept of mutually assured destruction — the idea that a nuclear attack

would have such devastating consequences that neither the United States nor its foes would dare launch one — isn't enough of a deterrent in today's strategic environment, a senior defense official told Congress Wednesday, March 29. "The new strategic environment requires new approaches to deterrence and defense," Peter Flory, assistant secretary for international security policy, told members of the Senate Armed Services Committee's strategic forces subcommittee. More progress needs to be made in fielding prompt conventional capabilities for global strike, transforming a Cold War nuclear arsenal to meet new challenges and revitalizing the U.S. nuclear infrastructure, Flory reported. Although the 2001 Nuclear Posture Review calls for reduced reliance on nuclear weapons, Flory said such weapons will continue to play a critical role in deterring a wide range of threats, including chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons, as well as large-scale aggression.

Source: http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Mar2006/20060330_4661.html

5. *March 31, U.S. Department of Defense* — **Warfighters need faster intelligence.** The need to get more intelligence to warfighters faster so they can act on it is fueling big changes in how information is gathered, processed and shared, a U.S. Joint Forces Command official said. There's an increasing appreciation that the global war on terror is an intelligence war, Christopher Jackson, chief of the Joint Forces Command Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Transformation Division. With that appreciation comes a recognition that information has to be made available more quickly and to more people. Traditionally, the intelligence community operated as a series of independent "stovepipe" systems, all collecting and processing intelligence, but highly compartmentalized and protective of who had access to it. But that's all changed. "There is still a requirement to be protective of sources and methods, but we are trying to move the pendulum over closer to the side where, as information is collected, it's available across the coalition battle space to all consumers, all people who have a need," Jackson said. There's also a trend toward making more raw data available to users in the interest of time rather than waiting until it can be fully processed.

Source: http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Mar2006/20060331_4666.html

6. *March 31, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-06-391: Defense Acquisitions: Assessments of Selected Major Weapon Programs (Report).** In the last five years, the Department of Defense (DoD) has doubled its planned investments in new weapon systems from about \$700 billion in 2001 to nearly \$1.4 trillion in 2006. While the weapons that DoD develops have no rival in superiority, weapon systems acquisition remains a long-standing high-risk area. The Government Accountability Office's (GAO) reviews over the past 30 years have found consistent problems with weapon acquisitions such as cost increases, schedule delays, and performance shortfalls. In addition, DoD faces several budgetary challenges that underscore the need to deliver its new weapon programs within estimated costs and to obtain the most from these investments. This report provides congressional and DoD decision makers with an independent, knowledge-based assessment of selected defense programs that identifies potential risks and needed actions when a program's projected attainment of knowledge diverges from the best practices. Programs for the assessments were selected based on several factors including, (1) high dollar value, (2) stage in acquisition, and (3) congressional interest. The majority of the 52 programs covered in this report are considered major defense acquisition programs by DoD. This report also highlights higher level issues raised by the cumulative experiences of individual programs.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06391high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-391>

7. *March 30, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-06-587T: Defense Acquisitions: Challenges Associated with the Navy's Long-Range Shipbuilding Plan (Testimony).** The Navy's long-range shipbuilding plan spells out its approach to meeting the Navy's future needs. This plan shows the Navy is embarking on an ambitious, expensive undertaking to develop, design, and construct a number of new ship classes. The Navy expects these vessels to successfully execute missions in a variety of environments through use of advanced technologies, while utilizing reduced crews and greater automation to lower costs. The Navy also expects these vessels to be constructed in quantities that sustain the industrial base and expand the overall size of the Navy. The plan calls for the number of ships to increase by about 10 percent to an average of about 309 ships through 2036. This effort will cost billions of dollars. At the request of Projection Forces Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) examined the Navy's shipbuilding plan and is providing this discussion of 1) the multiple objectives the plan proposes to meet; 2) the challenges that must be met to execute the plan; and 3) ways the Navy can reduce the tension between the demand for and supply of shipbuilding funds.
Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06587thigh.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-587T>

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *March 31, Security Focus* — **University study: Why phishing works.** Researchers at Harvard University and the University of California at Berkeley have published a document explaining why phishing works on general users. The document details a small study of 22 participants that looks at today's standard security indicators used with Websites and references previous larger studies on phishing. The authors conclude that existing browser measures are ineffective for a substantial number of users and suggest the dire need for alternative approaches. The report indicates that about two million Americans gave their personal information to phishing sites in 2003, resulting in direct losses of \$1.2 billion for U.S. banks and card issuers. Phishing has grown substantially since 2003. Additionally, the authors note that good (convincing) phishing sites were able to fool 90 percent of participants and that the test group made mistakes on an average of 40 percent of the time. Neither education, age, sex, previous experience, nor hours of computer use per day showed any statistically significant correlation with one's vulnerability to phishing.
Study: http://people.deas.harvard.edu/~rachna/papers/why_phishing_works.pdf
Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/brief/176>
9. *March 30, Associated Press* — **Los Angeles county department warns 94,000 people of possible ID theft.** Los Angeles County officials have sent 94,000 letters warning people of possible identity theft after some documents containing their confidential information were publicly exposed in January. The documents were left next to a recycling bin outside a Department of Public Social Services office in Exposition Park. The documents contained names, addresses, phone numbers, Social Security numbers, and medical information of people who received services from the Exposition Park office in the last two to three years, said

department spokesperson Shirley Christensen. There have been no reports of identity theft from any of the 2.2 million people who use the department's service, Christensen said.

Source: http://www.fresnobee.com/state_wire/story/11999039p-12759441 c.html

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

10. *April 01, Associated Press* — Minutemen return to U.S. border watch. Minuteman volunteers concerned about the continued flow of illegal immigrants across the border from Mexico gathered Saturday, April 1, with lawn chairs, binoculars and cell phones for a new month-long campaign aimed at raising public awareness of the issue. A year after their first watch-and-report operation along the border in southeastern Arizona, members of the Minuteman Civil Defense Corps embarked on a much larger effort in the busy migrant-smuggling corridor. No one in the group had any illusions about their campaign's effectiveness because it targets a relatively short section of the border for just a month. However, it comes at a time when Congress is debating proposals seeking to reform immigration laws, which have drawn supporters of legitimizing illegal immigrants to demonstrations in cities across the country. Those planning to patrol were under strict orders to call the Border Patrol and to avoid confronting intruders or drawing their weapons, said Chris Simcox, the Minuteman group's national leader, and Stacey O'Connell, in charge of the Arizona chapter.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2006/POLITICS/04/01/minutemen.return.ap/index.html>

11. *March 31, Reuters* — NTSB: Fire danger on popular regional jet needs urgent action. U.S. safety investigators issued urgent recommendations Thursday, March 30, for correcting problems that have caused electrical fires aboard Bombardier CRJ-200s, one of the most widely used regional jets in the U.S. commercial fleet. The National Transportation Safety Board concluded that seven fires aboard the Canadian-made planes — six within the past six months and none of them fatal — were caused by short circuits in the aircraft's flight instrument electrical system. Four of the fires knocked out electronic cockpit displays, preventing the crews from using their primary flight instruments, at least temporarily. "The potential consequences of these fires can be catastrophic," said Mark Rosenker, acting safety board chairman.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2006-03-31-regional-jet-fires_x.htm

12. *March 31, Reuters* — Delta to pass along airport fees to passengers. Delta Air Lines said Friday, March 31, that it will start adding airport fees to its ticket prices after previously absorbing them, a move that could boost fares nationwide if matched by rivals. Delta, which is operating under bankruptcy protection and lost more than \$500 million in January and February, said passengers could pay \$3 to \$4.50 more each way on flights that connect through airports charging the fees. If rivals match the move, it would be the latest in a series of fare increases this year by U.S. carriers, which are trying to climb back to profitability after several years of losses.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2006-03-31-delta-fees_x.htm

13. *March 31, WUSA (DC)* — **Propane truck crashes into Maryland's Bay Bridge toll plaza.** A propane truck and two pickup trucks crashed at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge toll plaza, creating an all-night traffic nightmare. The truck remained impaled in the toll plaza hours after the 4:15 p.m. EST crash and police said it could take at least eight hours to remove it. The truck's driver suffered serious injuries and was flown to a shock trauma hospital in critical condition. The toll taker and the people in the pickups were not hurt. The propane truck contained 600 gallons of propane. Because it lodged at a difficult 45-degree angle, the gas had to be burned off before the truck could be moved and the scene cleared up.

Source: http://www.wusatv9.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=48089

14. *March 31, Associated Press* — **Airports warned over screening problem.** U.S. airports were warned about possible screening equipment problems after a software glitch knocked out the metal detectors, x-ray machines and security checkpoint computers at Nashville International Airport for five hours Friday, March 31. "The situation has reverberated across the nation," said David Beecroft, who oversees security operations at the airport for the federal Transportation Security Administration. All international airports in the country were alerted because the company that supplies the computer software at Nashville also serves several other airports, Beecroft said. He didn't immediately have the name of the contractor. None of the computers, X-ray machines or metal detectors at the Nashville airport's two screening checkpoints were operating when security operations were scheduled to open for the day at 3:30 a.m. CST, Beecroft said. TSA employees searched bags by hand and used hand-held metal detector wands to screen passengers while the system was down.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/060331/airport_security.html?.v=2

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Postal and Shipping Sector

15. *March 31, DMNews* — **USPS seeks Negotiated Service Agreement to boost First Class use.** The U.S. Postal Service filed for its first Negotiated Service Agreement (NSA) based on encouraging a mailer to increase its use of First Class mail. The USPS seeks a three-year agreement with Washington Mutual Bank covering First Class Mail for the bank's credit card services. The request was made to the Postal Rate Commission on Wednesday, March 29. An NSA is a contract between the postal service and a company, providing customized pricing incentives based on the company's mail operations. According to the filing, the USPS estimates it will benefit by \$46.3 million over the life of the NSA. The USPS aims to increase its First Class volume. First Class declined 5.3 percent in the past five years while Standard Mail volume grew 12.1 percent. However, Standard Mail provides far less revenue per piece to the postal service than does First Class.

Source: http://www.dmnews.com/cgi-bin/artprevbot.cgi?article_id=36300

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Agriculture Sector

16.

April 01, Associated Press — **Animal tracking system for farms taking time to develop.**

Tracking farm animals in Ohio with an identification tag probably won't start for another three years until the state can get more farmers to sign up, the head of Ohio's livestock identification program said. Farm animal owners in Ohio are being asked to register their farms or properties with the state agriculture department as part of the National Animal Identification System. So far, the state has registered 1,600 of about 40,000 farms, markets and packing or processing plants that produce or hold livestock, said Gary Wilson, who is in charge of the animal identification system in Ohio. The focus now is on registering farms or properties with the state. The next step will be to assign a number to each animal and link that to a registered property. The final step will be tracking animals from location to location and recording that in a database.

Source: <http://www.ohio.com/mld/beaconjournal/news/state/14241858.htm>

17. *March 31, Associated Press* — **Deadly syndrome detected in Florida horses.** A syndrome that can cause pregnant mares to abort their foals has been confirmed in at least one Florida horse. Mare Reproductive Loss Syndrome was detected in an Alachua County horse euthanized on March 18 at the University of Florida Veterinary Medical Center, marking the state's first appearance of the condition. Three other cases are under investigation as being consistent with the syndrome. The disease wiped out more than 3,000 thoroughbred foals in Kentucky in 2001–2002, nearly a third of all foals. That caused more than \$500 million in losses. Experts believe the disease is caused when a pregnant mare ingests Eastern tent caterpillars. Scientists said the caterpillar carries bacteria that don't become a problem unless they enter a pregnant mare's womb and attaches itself to the placenta. Complications of the syndrome include miscarriages and early term fetal losses in mares recently bred back to stallions.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory?id=1792288&technology=true>

18. *March 31, Nebraska Department of Agriculture* — **Nebraska premises registration meets goal.** Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) Director Greg Ibach announced Friday, March 31, that the state has met a federal goal of having 25 percent of Nebraska's livestock premises registered by April 1, 2006. Individuals have registered more than 7,750 premises of an estimated 31,000 Nebraska premises under the state's animal identification system. The U.S. Department of Agriculture established the 25 percent threshold and the April 1, 2006, deadline as part of its National Animal Identification System (NAIS) guidelines.

Source: http://www.agr.state.ne.us/newsrel/march2006/premise_id.htm

19. *March 29, Associated press* — **Prosecution to proceed for 1997 raid on mink farm.** A South Dakota prosecutor faces a deadline to try a man accused of releasing hundreds of mink from a farm near Kranzburg nine years ago. The defendant, Peter Daniel Young, 28, is serving a two-year sentence in a federal prison in California after pleading guilty in U.S. District Court in Madison, WI, to animal enterprise terrorism for releasing mink at farms in Iowa, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Codington County State's Attorney Vince Foley said in December that the federal penalty did not fit the crime committed at the Turbak Mink Ranch near Kranzburg when hundreds of the animals were released from pens. Many died before they could be recaptured — a loss that played a part in the eventual closure of the business. Federal investigators said they believe Young is connected with the Animal Liberation Front, a radical group that has attempted to destroy animal-related industries. Foley filed state charges against Young of third-degree burglary, intentional damage to property and animal enterprise trespass.

Young has demanded a speedy trial or dismissal of the charges. By filing the request for a speedy trial, Foley said Young eliminated any extradition issues and started the clock on a 180-day window for prosecution.

Source: <http://www.duluthsuperior.com/mld/duluthsuperior/14217030.htm>

20. *March 05, News-Press* — **Cataracts latest threat to fishery.** Recent samplings of Florida fish in Tampa Bay, Lee County's Charlotte Harbor, and the St. Lucie estuary on the Atlantic Coast have yielded fish with cataracts — a clouding of the eye's lens that causes loss of vision. Because screening for cataracts is not a part of normal fish-health examinations in hatchery-raised or wild fish, scientists don't know how long the vision problems have existed, or how widespread cataracts may be among fish in Florida waters. Researchers also don't know what is causing the diseased fish, but they do know the problem isn't genetic. Virtually all of the redfish fingerlings at the Port Manatee hatchery on Tampa Bay were found to have cataracts, and some 30 to 50 percent of baby redfish at Sanibel's REDstart facility proved to be diseased. REDstart is not a hatchery, but an experimental grow-out facility on Sanibel that receives redfish fry from the state hatchery. Both the Tampa and Sanibel facilities drew water for their fish out of the adjoining bay systems. Bob Wasno, director of REDstart, said all 4,000 of the fish there recently were rejected for release into Pine Island Sound due to the problem.

Source: <http://www.news-press.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060306/NEWS0105/603060369/1075>

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Food Sector

21. *March 23, Associated Press* — **State fines unlicensed dairy operation following E. coli outbreak.** An unlicensed dairy operation that was the source of an E. coli outbreak that sickened at least 18 people late last year will be fined \$8,000, the Washington Department of Agriculture announced Thursday, March 22. Raw, unpasteurized milk from Dee Creek Farm in Woodland sickened at least 18 people in southwestern Washington and northern Oregon in December. Three children were admitted to local intensive care units. None of the farm's five cows had the required tests that certify the animals to be free of tuberculosis or brucellosis.

Source: <http://www.bellinghamherald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060323/NEWS/60323007>

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Water Sector

Nothing to report.

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Public Health Sector

22. *April 02, Agence France-Presse* — **Chinese students hospitalized with unknown flu.** Over 400 students at a university in central China's Henan province were hospitalized with high

fevers linked to an unknown flu virus, state press and a school official said. The outbreak began on March 26 when 22 students were hospitalized with high fevers. The next day the number of sick students at the Henan University of Science and Technology in Luoyang city rose to 88, and on March 28 there were 208 sick students in the university's infirmary. Local health officials were currently trying to identify the flu strain. The sick students were quarantined while school officials, under directions from provincial health authorities, cancelled classes and began disinfecting the university's 2,000 dormitory rooms, dining halls and classrooms. Most students were only hospitalized for about three days and released.

Source: http://www.forbes.com/markets/feeds/afx/2006/04/02/afx264003_3.html

23. *April 02, Agence France–Presse* — **Egypt reports two new human cases of bird flu.** Egypt has reported two new human cases of the H5N1 strain of avian influenza, which has already killed two Egyptians and infected four others in recent weeks. Health Minister Hatem al–Gebali told reporters at Cairo airport that the infected persons were two sisters aged 18 months and six years from the northern Nile Delta governorate of Kafr el–Sheikh. This brings to seven the number of human cases reported in Egypt, two of which proved fatal. Two of the infected Egyptians have been successfully treated with the Tamiflu drug. Infected poultry have been found in at least 19 of the 26 provinces in Egypt, the hardest–hit country in the region. Egypt is on a major route for migratory birds, at the crossroads between Asia and Africa.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060402/wl_mideast_afp/healthfl uegypt_060402120033

24. *April 01, New York Times* — **Mumps strikes 245, puzzling Iowa officials.** Perplexed health officials are trying to find the cause of a skyrocketing number of mumps cases in Iowa, the nation's largest outbreak of the infection in 17 years. At least 245 cases have been reported in Iowa in the past three months. The state previously averaged five per year. The number is approaching the average annual number reported nationwide. College students in Iowa account for about 23 percent of the reported cases of the infection, commonly transmitted by coughing or sneezing. About half of the cases are people ages 17 to 25. At least 66 percent of the infected people in Iowa had previously received the recommended two doses of the vaccine for measles, mumps and rubella. At least 14 people with symptoms were being examined in three neighboring states. The strain is the one that caused an epidemic of about 56,000 cases in the United Kingdom last year.

Mumps information: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/submenu/sub_mumps.htm

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2006/04/01/us/01mumps.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

25. *March 31, Associated Press* — **Egyptian is Jordan's first bird–flu case.** Jordanian health officials announced the kingdom's first human case of the bird flu Friday, March 31, in a 31–year–old worker believed to have contracted the H5N1 strain in his home village in Egypt. Health Minister Saeed Darwazeh said the man entered the country March 27 at the southern port of Aqaba and became sick while traveling to Karak, 130 miles south of the capital, Amman. Doctors in Karak tested the man when he sought treatment for flu symptoms. The World Health Organization was running tests to confirm the case. The patient, who is from the Fayoum province southwest of the Egyptian capital, said poultry was being raised for domestic consumption at his home, and many of the birds had died recently. Indonesia confirmed a new human death from bird flu, bringing the country's human toll from the deadly strain to 23, the Health Ministry said. The latest victim was a one–year–old girl who died March 23 at a Jakarta hospital, according to the ministry's command post for bird flu. Indonesian officials already

reported the death as a suspected case of bird flu, and test results confirming the initial diagnosis came back Friday, March 31.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=1791288>

26. *March 31, Los Angeles Times (CA)* — **California gets checkup on bird flu.** California has taken some solid steps to prepare for a possible pandemic of avian influenza, but several key roadblocks remain, health officials said at a summit for pandemic preparedness Thursday, March 30. The event included federal, state and county health authorities. The capacity of hospitals to handle large surges of patients is "going to be our single greatest challenge in addressing the pandemic," said Mark Horton, the state's public health officer. "Even if there were enough beds — which there won't be — there won't be enough people" to staff the hospitals, added Jonathan Fielding, Los Angeles County's public health director. Officials also acknowledged that it would be difficult to use medicines in advance of bird flu, because in the event of a pandemic in the U.S., vaccines would probably not be widely available until six months after the flu arrived. To help local agencies develop their plans, Leavitt said the federal government had earmarked three million dollars for Los Angeles County and six million dollars for the state government.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/california/la-me-flu31mar31.1.743044.story?coll=la-headlines-pe-california>

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

27. *March 31, Tech Web* — **Tiny Alaskan town gets homeland security funds for surveillance cameras.** Dillingham, a small fishing village of 2,400 near the Alaskan tundra, has six police officers and no traffic lights, but has 60 surveillance cameras. And, it will soon get 20 more thanks to Department of Homeland Security funds. Police Chief Richard Thompson explained that remote areas like Dillingham can be a "backdoor" for terrorists.

Source: <http://www.techweb.com/wire/security/184419750;jsessionid=JX3C3QOOVI4HR4QSNDBCCKHSCJUMEKJVN>

28. *March 30, Federal Computer Week* — **Departments of Defense and Justice stress self-powered communications to be used during disasters.** If Hurricane Katrina taught first responders anything, it's that communications systems must survive a natural disaster before they can be used to coordinate response efforts. The federal government must work with industry to create self-powered communications technology that can operate without traditional infrastructure. That's what officials from the Departments of Defense (DoD) and Justice told Congress Thursday, March 30. To further prepare for the upcoming hurricane season, the DoD is working with the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency to develop a system to acquire reconnaissance data of initial damage conditions. The department is also helping other agencies

revise the National Search and Rescue Plan.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article92795-03-30-06-Web>

29. *March 30, Northwest Arkansas Times* — **Mock chemical attack helps Arkansas responders identify weaknesses.** Wednesday, March 29, a simulated chemical terrorist attack exercise was conducted at the University of Arkansas' Bud Walton Arena. "We're simulating a real life disaster to identify the types of situations we could potentially face," said John Luther, Washington County emergency management director. Multiple agencies from Benton and Washington counties, Fayetteville, Bentonville, and other nearby communities participated in the exercise. Luther said the exercise enabled first responders to identify potential areas of weakness. "We're not pointing out errors in a critical manner," he said. "But if we can flush them out now, we'll be better prepared in the event of a real disaster." Luther did not point out any major mistakes during Wednesday's exercise, but said time is always the biggest obstacle when it comes to emergency response. In order to overcome time constraints, Luther said, more response agencies should be equipped with specialized equipment.

Source: <http://nwanews.com/nwat/News/38990/>

30. *March 30, Orlando Sentinel* — **First responders learn about the hazards of electricity.** "Electricity will always find the quickest way to the ground," John Patterson, a trainer for Progress Energy, warned Wednesday, March 29, for the fourth annual 911 First Responders Storm and Safety Expo near Orlando, FL. Patterson and others spent three days, instructing firefighters, paramedics, police officers and other emergency workers on the dangers of electricity. The expo is intended to encourage emergency workers and utilities employees to work together to enhance their safety around electricity, especially during emergencies such as hurricanes.

Source: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/education/orl-powerexpo3006mar30.0.2894185.story?coll=orl-news-education-headlines>

31. *March 29, North Country Gazette (NY)* — **Emergency telephones to be reactivated after five years of failed service.** The Adirondack Northway will soon have a new emergency call box system thanks to the efforts of three North Country, NY, lawmakers. They have been working to restore emergency phone service on the Northway to replace a system which failed more than five years ago. The new call box system will consist of two-way radios and a repeater system that will direct calls to a New York State Police operator. The first priority will be given to those stretches of the Northway where lack of cell phone service is most extensive.

Source: <http://www.northcountrygazette.org/articles/032906NorthwayPhones.html>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

32. *March 31, China Press* — **Attacks on Chinese Government Websites skyrocket.** Hackers cracked various levels of the Chinese government official Websites and changed information on the Web pages 2,027 times last year, doubling that of 2004. Additionally, more than 13,000 Chinese Websites were altered last year, one-sixth of which were government Websites.

Source: <http://www.shanghaidaily.com/press/2006/03/31/attacks-on-gov>

33. *March 31, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-06-408: Information Security: Securities and Exchange Commission Needs to Continue to Improve Its Program (Report)**. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has a demanding responsibility enforcing securities laws, regulating the securities markets, and protecting investors. In enforcing these laws, SEC issues rules and regulations to provide protection for investors and to help ensure that the securities markets are fair and honest. It relies extensively on computerized systems to support its financial and mission-related operations. Information security controls affect the integrity, confidentiality, and availability of sensitive information maintained by SEC. As part of the audit of SEC's fiscal year 2005 financial statements, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) assessed (1) the status of SEC's actions to correct or mitigate previously reported information security weaknesses and (2) the effectiveness of the commission's information system controls in protecting the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of its financial and sensitive information. GAO recommends that SEC Chairman direct the Chief Information Officer to fully implement an agency-wide information security program. In providing written comments on a draft of this report, SEC said that GAO's recommendations are appropriate and actionable, and that it is focusing on fully implementing the recommendations.
Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06408high.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-408>
34. *March 31, Reuters* — **U.S. Senate panel backs phone record privacy bill**. The U.S. Senate Commerce Committee Thursday, March 30, approved legislation to protect consumers' telephone records by making it illegal to sell such information without consent. The measure would boost penalties to as much as \$30,000 per incident and up to \$3 million for continuing violations by telephone companies that fail to properly safeguard consumer information. The bill would also require carriers to inform consumers if their information was accessed without permission.
Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,1944817,00.asp>
35. *March 31, IDG News Service* — **New generation of IE malware now circulating**. Hackers have posted a new version of malicious software that will make it easier for them to exploit an unpatched vulnerability in the Internet Explorer (IE) browser. The software was posted by hackers Friday, March 31, to the Milw0rm.com Website. The code exploits a flaw in the way IE processes Webpages using the createTextRange() method. Hackers have been using malware that takes advantage of this vulnerability to install unauthorized software on victims' computers over the past week, but this new generation is considered to be more dangerous. The new software works more quickly, meaning it will be particularly effective on older machines with limited memory and processing capabilities.
Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/03/31/77027_HNiemailware_1.html
36. *March 30, eWeek* — **Hackers use BBC News as IE attack lure**. According to an alert issued by Websense Security Labs, excerpts from actual BBC News stories are being used to lure Internet Explorer users to Websites that launch drive-by downloads of bots, spyware, back doors and other Trojan downloaders. One version of the spammed e-mail contains a portion of a BBC News item published on Monday, March 27, about the Chinese Yuan hitting a

post-revaluation high against the U.S. dollar. Websense researchers found that the rigged site exploits the unpatched createTextRange vulnerability.

Websense Security Labs Alert: <http://www.websensesecuritylabs.com/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=452> After the legitimate excerpt, the hackers embedded a "read more" link.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,1944579,00.asp>

37. *March 30, Silicon* — **Criminal gangs recruiting hackers.** Speaking at the e-Crime Congress in London Thursday, March 30, Alan Paller, director of research for SANS, said weak digital security in businesses is helping hackers fund criminal activity. Paller said he had recently seen cases of criminal gangs recruiting hackers by threatening to harm their families unless they agree to carry out denial-of-service extortion attacks. Paller said the FBI is currently receiving more than one report of cyber extortion every day.

Source: <http://software.silicon.com/security/0,39024655,39157704,00.htm>

38. *March 29, Computer World* — **Federal IT spending to slow through 2011.** Federal IT spending over the next five years now looks to be lower than had been earlier predicted, even though overall government IT spending will increase from \$75 billion this fiscal year to \$93 billion by fiscal year 2011, according to the Federal IT Market Forecast released Tuesday, March 28, by Reston, VA-based Input Inc. Analysts are divided over what is driving the decline in spending. In contrast, state and local agencies are likely to aggressively increase IT spending over the next three years, Input said, growing from approximately \$50 billion this year to \$72 billion by fiscal 2011, according to the State & Local IT Market Forecast released Wednesday, March 29, by Input.

Federal IT Market Forecast: <http://www.input.com/corp/press/detail.cfm?news=1177>

State & Local IT Market Forecast: <http://www.input.com/corp/press/detail.cfm?news=1178>

Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/governmenttopics/government/itgovernment/story/0,10801,110037,00.html?SKC=itgovernment-110037>

Internet Alert Dashboard

DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.

US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis: US-CERT is aware of a vulnerability in the way Microsoft Internet Explorer handles the createTextRange() DHTML method. By persuading a user to access a specially crafted webpage, a remote, unauthenticated attacker may be able to execute arbitrary code on that user's system. This vulnerability can also be used to crash Internet Explorer. We are aware of proof of concept code for this vulnerability. More information about the reported vulnerability can be found in the following US-CERT Vulnerability Note:

VU#876678 – Microsoft Internet Explorer createTextRange() vulnerability
<http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/876678>

Known attack vectors for this vulnerability require Active Scripting to be enabled in Internet Explorer. Disabling Active Scripting will reduce the chances of exploitation. Until an update, patch or more information becomes available, US-CERT recommends disabling Active Scripting as specified in the Securing Your Web Browser document.

http://www.us-cert.gov/reading_room/securing_browser/#how_to_secure

We will continue to update current activity as more information becomes available.

Phishing Scams US-CERT continues to receive reports of phishing scams that target online users and Federal government web sites. Specifically, sites that provide online benefits are being targeted. US-CERT encourages users to report phishing incidents based on the following guidelines:

Federal Agencies should report phishing incidents to US-CERT.

http://www.us-cert.gov/nav/report_phishing.html

Non-federal agencies and other users should report phishing incidents to Federal Trade Commissions OnGuard Online. <http://onguardonline.gov/phishing.html>

Additionally, users are encouraged to take the following measures to prevent phishing attacks from occurring:

Do not follow unsolicited web links received in email messages.

Contact your financial institution immediately if you believe your account and/or financial information has been compromised.

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (win-rpc), 6881 (bittorrent), 25 (smtp), 445 (microsoft-ds), 32768 (HackersParadise), 25217 (----), 41170 (----), 55620 (----), 80 (www), 15000 (hydap) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center
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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

39. *March 31, New York Times* — **Levee plans fall short of FEMA standards.** New Orleans's levees do not meet the standards that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires for its flood protection program, federal officials said on Thursday, March 30 — and they added that the problem would take as much as \$6 billion to fix. FEMA has long based its flood planning on whether an area is protected against a flood that might have a one percent

chance of occurring in any year, also known as a 100-year flood. Without that certification, the agency's flood maps have to treat the entire levee system as if it were not there at all, which means that people hoping to build in the affected areas might have to rebuild their homes at elevations of 15 or even 30 feet above sea level in order to meet new federal building standards. But since Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, the agency has toughened its 100-year standard, based on new information about land subsidence and the increasing severity and frequency of hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico. Donald Powell, the federal coordinator for Gulf Coast rebuilding, said Thursday that the Corps now believes it cannot meet that standard without spending additional billions to upgrade the flood protection system still further.

Source: <http://www.eudora.com/email/upgrade/>

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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